

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 25, 2008

We have before us today a recommendation to approve the allocation of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding for the provision of Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EESP) services for Severely Emotionally Disturbed and Severely and Persistently Mentally-ill Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 16 to 25. Foster children are a subset of TAY. As stated in my two previous motions, dated July 17, 2007 and February 12, 2008, directly investing Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding in the enhancement and improvement of approaches to addressing the mental health well-being of foster children is well within the stated purpose of MHSA.

The EESP is not the only MHSA-funded housing program for TAY administered by the Department of Mental Health. Furthermore, there are a number of other existing housing and shelter programs for TAY administered by the Department of Children and Family Services, the Community Development Commission, the County's Homeless Prevention Initiative and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. Each program may have differing eligibility criteria that may or may not prioritize foster children; and each uses

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independent multi-million dollar funding streams that may or may not be coordinated within a continuum of inter-related services.

For those foster children who will or have aged-out of County supervision without permanency, we need to provide continued services and financial supports. Previous legislative efforts to achieve this have failed due to financial considerations. Yet we have these various supportive housing and shelter programs which, if better connected to allow for integration and streamlining; and better defined to give current and former foster youth priority, may move the County closer to serving our most vulnerable youth more strategically and with greater efficiency.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Mental Health, Director of Children and Family Services, Executive Director of the Community Development Commission and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), report back within 30 days on the continuum of all of the various TAY housing and shelter services; how they compare and contrast; how they may be better integrated, coordinated and streamlined; and the priority within each given to serving current and former foster youth.

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